

# Mason Matters!

Fall 2014

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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## A Message From Supervisor Gross

### Special Interest Articles:

- **Absentee Voting and Bond Information**
- **Mason District Gauges Support for Large Area CPD**
- **Fairfax Alerts Replaces CEAN**
- **Land Use News**
- **Volunteers Needed for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games**
- **Coming Attractions**
- **Community Notes**
- **Mason District Holiday Town Gathering Set for December 8**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Public facilities, such as schools, fire stations, libraries, and parks, are hallmarks of vibrant communities, and almost exclusively the responsibility of local governments to build, operate, and maintain. Funding for constructing such public improvements usually is provided by municipal bonds, approved by the voters. Bond referenda enjoy significant support from Mason District voters, and most bond questions are approved by residents across Fairfax County.

During the past few years, public facilities constructed or expanded in Mason District include the Thomas Jefferson Library on Arlington Boulevard, which re-opened in 2010 with a newly expanded footprint and award-winning architecture, and Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale, which was built on the former Masonville School site and opened in fall 2012. Currently under construction is a fabulous new identity for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, including a Jeffersonian-style domed entryway, state-of-the-art science labs, and free-flowing student areas that encourage study and collaboration. Also under renovation is the Lincolnia Senior Center, which includes improved housing units for low income senior citizens. Longtime Mason District residents may recall the old Lincolnia Elementary School, which was repurposed into its new iteration in the early 1990s.



I recently toured three exciting new projects in Mason District. The Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences opened for classes on September 2. A former office building in Seven Corners was renovated, in record time, for the new facility, which serves students in grades 3, 4, and 5, and relieves serious overcrowding at Bailey's Elementary School on Knollwood Drive. The new school, the first vertical school concept in Fairfax County, is full of natural light, bright colors, and innovative designs. A playground and outdoor activity area will complete the site next year.

The Woodrow Wilson Community Library renovation and expansion will provide additional study and meeting space, and a much more attractive and efficient building design. A large new meeting room and windowed quiet study rooms will serve community users, and pervious pavers in the parking lot will help meet storm runoff requirements. The new library is expected to re-open in March 2015. The temporary library facility at 6066 Leesburg Pike will continue to serve patrons until the new library re-opens.

Bailey's Crossroads Fire Station 10, 3601 Firehouse Lane in Falls Church, will celebrate its grand re-opening on Saturday, October 11, at 10 a.m. during the annual Fire and Rescue Department Open Houses. The station, which also houses the Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, suffered a serious roof collapse during a heavy blizzard in February 2010. A temporary location was identified, and the station services moved to the corner of Columbia Pike and Moncure Drive, while a new station was constructed. The new facility features two drive-through apparatus bays, and many new features that will make this round-the-clock workspace better for our first responders and for our community. See you at the Open House!

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW  
on Cable Channel 16  
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.  
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.  
DAILY ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON](http://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON)

## Absentee Voting Information for the November 4 Election

Registered voters may vote absentee in person at the satellite location in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, from **October 14 to November 1**. Voting hours are **Monday through Friday**, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. The site will be closed on Monday, October 13 in observance of Columbus Day. Voting also is available **Saturdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Please bring a current and valid photo identification.**

The **deadline to apply for an absentee ballot** by mail, fax, or e-mail is **Tuesday, October 28 at 5 p.m.** Send completed absentee ballot applications to: **Fax: 703-324-3725; E-Mail: [absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov)**. All mailed absentee ballots **MUST** be received at the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 4, to be counted.

Students attending college outside the metropolitan area may call the registrar's office at 703-222-0776 to request an application for an absentee ballot. When the registrar receives the completed ballot application, a ballot will be sent directly to the student. Students' completed ballots must be received in the Electoral Board Office before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have moved since you last voted, **update your address before October 14**. First-time voters are urged to contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections for instructions. Information is available on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb), or call 703-222-0776; TTY 711. **The deadline to register to vote for the November 4, 2014 General Election is October 14 at 5 p.m.; online: 11:59 p.m.**

## Fairfax County Transportation Bond Referendum on 2014 Ballot

Bonds are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. There is a proposed Fairfax County Transportation Bond referendum on the ballot for the November 4, 2014 election. Residents will be asked to vote Yes or No on a \$100 million Transportation Bond question that would provide for the following:

- **Spot Road Improvements** (\$16 million) to increase roadway capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve transit access.
- **Pedestrian Improvements** (\$77.5 million) to improve capacity, enhance safety and complete missing pedestrian links that connect neighborhoods, and improve access to schools, Metrorail stations, and activity centers.
- **Bicycle Improvements** (\$6.5 million) to include developing new bicycle facilities, constructing trails, adding bicycle parking and enhancing accessibility.

For more information about the 2014 Bond Referendum, log-on to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond), or call the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.

## Mason District Gauges Support for Large Area CPD

Several years ago, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to Fairfax County Code 82-5B to allow for a process to create a large area Community Parking District (CPD). This process augments the petition-based process, and in all cases, restrictions only apply to public streets in residential areas. The CPD prohibits the parking of boats, recreational vehicles, and trailers on neighborhood streets. It also prohibits parking vehicles weighing 12,000 pounds or more, vehicles having three or more axles, and vehicles transporting 16 or more passengers (except school buses).

Exemptions to the CPD include: vehicles used by federal, state, or local public agencies to provide services; commercial vehicles discharging passengers, performing work or providing services; vehicles temporarily parked, for up to 48 hours, for the purpose of loading, unloading or preparing for a trip. See the [Code of the County of Fairfax](#), Chapter 82, Article 5B, for more information about the program and exemptions.

If your community would support a Large Area CPD in the Mason District, send an e-mail and indicate in the subject line "Large Area CPD" to Supervisor Gross at [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov), include your name, address, and civic or homeowners association. This information also may be mailed to: Supervisor Penny Gross, Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. Information about the CPD program is available on the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's Web Site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#cpd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtap.htm#cpd), and existing large area CPDs can be seen on the [CPD maps page](#).



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross accepts from Linda Langston, 2013-14 president of the National Association of Counties, NACo's Achievement Award for Best in Category for WorkSafe Fairfax. Fairfax County's Risk Management Division created WorkSafe Fairfax in 2012 as a countywide injury prevention awareness campaign to protect employees from preventable accidents/injuries. The award was presented at the NACo 2014 Annual Conference & Exposition on July 13.

Photo courtesy of NACo.

## Fairfax Alerts Replaces CEAN

### "If we can't reach you, we can't find you!"

Fairfax Alerts is the new emergency alert system from Fairfax County, and it replaces CEAN. Registered CEAN users are asked to visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts) to create a new Fairfax Alerts account. All CEAN accounts were deleted effective October 1. Choose the type of alerts you wish to receive, and customize your Fairfax Alerts locations to include home, work, school, and more. For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management at [oem@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem@fairfaxcounty.gov); call 571-350-1000; TTY 711; or log-on to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem).



## Land Use News



**Elmdale Walkway** - Construction will begin soon on the Elmdale Walkway Project, a walkway spanning the south side of Elmdale Road, from Old Columbia Pike to Braddock Road. The walkway project will consist of a 6' asphalt walkway, accompanied by drainage improvements. During construction, some plantings along the Park Authority property will be impacted. Project engineers have worked closely with a golf course landscape architect to ensure that the necessary replacement or relocation of these plantings will occur to protect neighboring properties from golf balls. It is anticipated that the relocated plantings will improve the screening that currently exists. Completion of this project will provide a safe pedestrian facility in this heavily used area.



**Southeast Quadrant** - Fairfax County is progressing with a public-private partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools and Avalon Bay Communities in the redevelopment of the 'Southeast Quadrant' of Bailey's Crossroads. This area consists of publicly and privately owned property along Columbia Pike, from its intersection with Moncure Avenue to Radley Acura (5823 Columbia Pike). Initial proposals planned for this area included residential development and, potentially, an elementary school on these parcels.

Public meetings for this development will resume on October 21, 2014, to seek public comment about this potential change of use. The meeting will be held at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. For more information, please contact the Office of Supervisor Gross at 703-256-7717; Mark Looney of Avalon Bay Communities at 703-456-8652; or the Fairfax County Public Schools' Design and Construction Services Office 571-423-2280.



(L-R) Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Transportation Services Jeff Plattenberg, Chief Financial Officer for Fairfax County Public Schools Susan Quinn, Principal Marie Lemmon, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, and Mason District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board Sandy Evans, take a moment to see the state-of-the-art facilities at Bailey's Upper Elementary School, located at 6245 Leesburg Pike. This is the first urban-style school in Fairfax County, serving grades 3 - 5, and opened for classes on September 2.

## Volunteers for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games

From **June 26 - July 5, 2015**, Fairfax County will host one of the largest multi-sport, multi-venue events in the world. Volunteer opportunities are available with Special Events, Operations, Venues and Competition, PR/Marketing, and more. For more information about the games, visit [www.Fairfax2015.com](http://www.Fairfax2015.com), or contact Kimberley Palmese, director, Workforce Fairfax 2015 at [volunteer@fairfax2015.com](mailto:volunteer@fairfax2015.com). Be a part of history!

## Coming Attractions

- Join the Fairfax County Department of Transportation for an **Open House** featuring the **Route 50 Pedestrian Initiative Projects** on **Wednesday, October 15, from 7-8:30 p.m.** at Falls Church High School Auditorium (Entrance 8), 7521 Jaguar Trail in Falls Church. Learn about 10 walkway projects along Route 50/Arlington Boulevard that will provide missing links to side walks and improve pedestrian crossings. For more information, contact Seyed Nabavi at 703-877-5759; TTY 711.
- The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host **Document Shredding** on **Saturday, October 18, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. More information and a complete schedule of other recycling events is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling).
- The Annandale Fall Festival Parade will be held on **Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** For more information, or to participate, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232. The **Annandale Fall Festival and the Taste of Annandale** will be held in the Safeway parking lot, 7414 Little River Turnpike, from **10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Enjoy live music and international cuisine. The Kids Zone will feature activities for toddlers and teens. For more information, visit [www.annandalechamber.com](http://www.annandalechamber.com).
- Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, will host a **Gardener's Holiday Open House** on **Sunday, December 7, 12 - 4 p.m.** Register in advance for the 1 p.m. children's puppet show, enter the annual gingerbread house contest, and catch a ride on the trackless train. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

## Community Notes

- The Seven Corners Land Use and Transportation Task Force has wrapped up its two-year analysis of the Seven Corners/Willston study area with long-term recommendations (the next 20 to 40 years) for the future of Seven Corners. Additional study of Opportunity Area C, or the Sears site, will be conducted during the next three months by a working group of the residential members of the task force, augmented by presidents of nearby civic associations, or their designee. Meeting schedules will be posted on the Mason District Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason). Task Force agendas, materials, and related information also are posted on the Web site. The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors public hearings for the Seven Corners/Willston Comprehensive Plan Amendment, originally scheduled for November and December, have been deferred until 2015.
- The ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need, especially for furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.
- AARP Volunteers will return in 2015 to provide free tax help to residents from **February 2 until April 15** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Walk-in service will be available on Mondays and Thursdays: 1 - 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. For more information and to volunteer, visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide), or call 1-888-227-7669.

### Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering

**Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m.**

Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Start the holiday season early with your neighbors and Supervisor Gross, and enjoy an evening of local entertainment, refreshments, and hear about the highlights of major activities in Mason District. You may even win a door prize!

#### **Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross**

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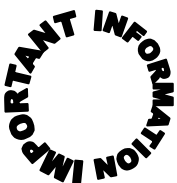
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mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason)

Visit us on the Web:

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